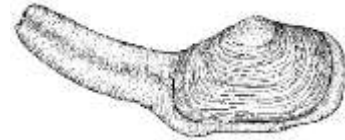

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



Cora Campbell, Commissioner
Jeff Regnart, Director



Contact:
Eric Coonradt

Phone: (907) 747-6688
Fax: (907) 747-6693

Sitka Area Office
304 Lake Street, Rm. 103
Sitka, Alaska 99835
Date: August 28, 2013
Time: 3:30 p.m.

SOUTHEAST ALASKA COMMERCIAL GEODUCK CLAM FISHERY

Sitka . . . The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) announced today the following information concerning the September commercial geoduck clam season in District 13:

The Sitka commercial geoduck clam season will begin with paralytic shellfish poison (PSP) testing on Tuesday, September 3, and based on results of PSP testing, the first fisheries will be held on Thursday, September 5, and Friday, September 6, 2013. After the initial week, subsequent weekly fisheries will occur on Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays. Daily fishing hours will be from 7:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon, unless the department adjusts hours to allow for daylight harvest or reduces hours for management purposes. Fishing areas will be opened only if PSP results are below 80µg. Open fishing periods and locations will be announced by ADF&G news release after the results of PSP testing have been determined.

A Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission permit and a vessel registration are required prior to fishing in the Ketchikan or Sitka registration areas. Both the Sitka and Ketchikan areas require a separate registration. Additionally, harvesters are required to contact the department during business hours of 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at least two business days before the weekly opening, prior to fishing for geoducks in a different registration management area. Business day means days other than Saturday, Sunday, or a state holiday. Monday, September 2 is Labor Day and all state offices will be closed.

The Department will continue the mandatory logbook program for geoduck clams (5AAC 38.142(m)). This requires that logbooks be filled out before departing the harvest site and returned to ADF&G within 7 days of delivery. This data provides biologists with information on new and existing geoduck clam beds. Logbook pages can be picked up at ADFG offices. All logbook information will remain confidential. Logbooks should be turned in with fish tickets or mailed directly to the Petersburg ADF&G office, C/O Jeff Meucci, at P.O. Box 667, Petersburg, AK 99833.

In January of 2003, the Alaska Board of Fisheries gave the ADF&G authority to manage the commercial geoduck fishery based on PSP levels [5 AAC 38.142 (a)]. In cooperation with the Southeast Alaska Regional Dive Fishery Association (SARDFA) and the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC), geoduck areas are tested for PSP and certified for live sale. ADF&G will manage areas as distinct commercial fishing areas. No alternative sampling programs will be allowed concurrent with the inseason sampling protocol.

Trip limits may be imposed in areas with small initial guideline harvest levels (GHLs) or areas with little remaining GHLs.

Guideline Harvest Levels by Areas:

Symonds Bay (Subdistrict 113-31-002): will be open for a guideline harvest level of 7,000 pounds of whole geoduck clams only in those waters of Symonds Bay on Biorka Island south of a line from the westernmost tip of Hanus Island at 56°51.90' N. latitude, 135°30.50' W. longitude, to the easternmost tip of Entrance Island at 56°51.92' N. latitude, 135°31.52' W. longitude.

Taigud and Kolosh Islands Area (Subdistricts 113-31-004, 113-41-004): will be open for a guideline harvest level of 1,900 pounds of whole geoduck clams only in those waters along the western coast of Baranof Island and associated offshore islands south and east of a line from Cape Burunof to the northernmost tip of Little Biorka Island, and north and east of a line from a point at the southern entrance of Kliuchevoi Bay at 56°50.18' N. latitude, 135°22.67' W. longitude to a point southwest of Fragrant Island at 56°50.08' N. latitude, 135°25.77' W. longitude, to a point approximately midway between Torsar Island and Blackbird Island at 56°50.48' N. latitude, 135°25.77' W. longitude, to Middle Rock, to the northernmost tip of Hanus Island, and to the northernmost tip of Little Biorka Island.

Harvesters are reminded that waters described in 5 AAC 38.142(3)(A) and (B), located within the above described area, are closed to the commercial harvest of geoduck clams.

Biorka Channel and Legma Island Area (Subdistrict 113-31-003): will be open for a guideline harvest level of 9,600 pounds of whole geoduck clams only in those waters east of a line from the northeasternmost tip of Hanus Island to a point on the southeast shore of Biorka Island at 56°50.55' N. latitude, 135°30.97' W. longitude, to a point 0.5 miles southeast of Jug Island at 56°47.10' N. latitude, 135°25.60' W. longitude and south and west of a line from the northeasternmost tip of Hanus Island to the westernmost tip of Middle Rock to a point approximately midway between Torsar Island and Blackbird Island at 56°50.48' N. latitude, 135°25.77' W. longitude, to a point approximately 0.5 miles southeast of Jug Island located at 56°47.10' N. latitude, 135°25.60' W. longitude.

Elovoi, Golf, and Gornoi Islands area (Subdistrict 113-31-005): will open for a guideline harvest level of 1,600 pounds of whole geoduck clams in the waters enclosed by a line from the southern entrance of Kliuchevoi Bay at 56°50.18' N. latitude, 135°22.67' W. longitude, to a point located at 56°50.08' N. latitude, 135°25.77' W. longitude (southwest of Fragrant Island), to a point located at 56°47.10' N. latitude, 135°25.60' W. longitude (approximately 0.45 nautical miles southeast of Jug Island) to a point located at 56°41.97' N. latitude, 135°17.52' W. longitude (southern tip of Scow Island) to a point located at 56°41.73' N. latitude, 135°15.50' W. longitude (southernmost tip of Beauchamp Island).

Closed waters: the waters of Middle Channel east of a line from 56°44.10' N. latitude, 135°14.77' W. longitude to 56°44.37' N. latitude, 135°15.02' W. longitude and West Crawfish Inlet east of a line from 56°46.28' N. latitude, 135°16.39' W. longitude to 56°46.69' N. latitude, 135°17.21' W. longitude will be closed to the harvest of geoduck clams.

News releases web site: <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=cfnews.main>.

<i>Office</i>	<i>Ketchikan</i>	<i>Petersburg</i>	<i>Wrangell</i>	<i>Sitka</i>	<i>Juneau</i>	<i>Haines</i>	<i>Yakutat</i>
ADF&G	225-5195	772-3801	874-3822	747-6688	465-4250	766-2830	784-3255
AWT	225-5111	772-3983	874-3215	747-3254	465-4000	766-2533	784-3220